



# US Forest Service

## Rim Fire Recovery

### Weekly Update

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#### General Background:

**Date:** Aug. 12, 2014

The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring. The Stanislaus National Forest has produced:

1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Implementing contracts for this project have been awarded.
2. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. The proposed DEIS includes work on 44,461 acres of NFS lands, of which 16,315 acres are along roads. The Draft EIS 30-day public comment period ended on June 16, 2014. The draft EIS is available online at [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=43033](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033). A decision is scheduled for August 2014.

#### Update for the week of August 12, 2014:

##### Director:

- New Forest Supervisor, Jeanne Higgins, will begin her tour on Sept. 3. Jeanne is currently the Deputy Regional Forester, R3.
- Barbara Drake, the new Rim Fire Recovery Director, reports on Sept. 8. She will attend the Rim Fire Reforestation Workshop to be held on Aug. 18-19.
- USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer will visit on Aug. 23. He will confer with the Tuolumne Band of the Me-Wuk Indians while here.

##### Engineering:

- Railing repairs to Clavey Bridge will occur on Aug. 16. Inform logging contractors of planned work.
- Three BLM survey crews are resetting missing boundary markers.

##### Forestry:

- Meeting with external partners regarding reforestation on Aug. 18 and 19.
- Ecological Society of America will be touring the Rim Fire on Aug. 15.
- Assisting with tour for the Society of American Foresters on Aug. 22 and 23.

##### Communications:

- Two PIOs have been hired for a few weeks to assist with the EIS rollout.
- Media interest is likely to remain steady throughout the rollout process.
- Sept. version of the Rim Fire Recovery newspaper will be out in the next few weeks. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the paper will be produced next summer. It will feature upcoming projects such as reforestation.



Deer hunting zones and how they interface with the Rim Fire will be featured in the September version of the Rim Fire Recovery newspaper. Specific questions on hunting can be directed towards the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife at 209-234-3420.

**Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact:**  
Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 432-3709.